



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF TENNCARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 14, 2001

CONTACT: LOLA POTTER

STATE ASKS FOR CONSUMER, PROVIDER INPUT ON SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL RETARDATION

SERIES OF SEVEN PUBLIC MEETINGS PLANNED

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— In an effort to improve services for individuals with mental retardation, state officials and The Tennessee Association of Retarded Citizens (The ARC) have scheduled a series of seven meetings with consumers across the state.

"We are working hard to improve our program for individuals with mental retardation in Tennessee," said Joanna Damons, director of the TennCare Division of Long Term Care (TDLTC), which is responsible for the administrative oversight of the Home and Community Based Services Waiver for individuals with mental retardation. "We hope to come away from these meetings with some solutions to problems we've identified."

TDLTC is mailing to consumers and representatives packets that include the meeting schedule, agenda for each meeting and information about disability organizations and support groups.

TDLTC is also meeting with providers of mental retardation services. Provider meetings are scheduled concurrent with consumer meetings, but at a separate time to allow for evening consumer meetings. At each location, consumer meetings will be held from 6 - 8 PM local time, with provider meetings held from 1 - 3 PM local time.

The schedule for consumer and provider meetings is:

KNOXVILLE

August 29, 2001 6-8 PM (EDT)
East Tennessee Regional Health Office
1522 Cherokee Trail
Knoxville, TN 37920

JOHNSON CITY

August 30, 2001 6-8 PM (EDT)
North East Tennessee Regional Health Office
1233 South West Avenue Extension
Johnson City, TN 37604

-more-

STATE CAPITOL, 1ST FLOOR
NASHVILLE, TN 37243
615.741.2401

CHATTANOOGA
September 5, 2001 6-8 PM (EDT)
Hamilton County Health Department
Golley Auditorium
921 East Third Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403

COOKEVILLE
September 6, 2001 6-8 PM (CDT)
Upper Cumberland Career Center
3300 Enterprise Drive
Cookeville, TN 38506

MEMPHIS
September 12, 2001 6-8 PM (CDT)
Memphis City School - Board of Education
2597 Avery Avenue
Memphis, TN 38112

JACKSON
September 13, 2001 6-8 PM (CDT)
West Tennessee Regional Health Office
Conference Room A
295 Summar
Jackson, TN 38301

NASHVILLE
September 19, 2001 6-8 PM (CDT)
Girl Scout Counsel of Cumberland Valley
4522 Granny White Pike
Nashville, TN 37204

In addition, two telephone conference calls have been scheduled for people who cannot attend the public meetings. Both calls will be held on September 20, 2001. The provider conference will be at 9 AM (CDT) and the toll-free teleconference number is 1-888-273-9887. The consumer conference will be at 1 PM (CDT), and the number to call to participate in the consumer conference call is 1-800-230-1059 (toll-free).

###